



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 13 October 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](#)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued orders requiring fingerprinting and criminal history record checks for all licensees and individuals seeking access to safeguards information. (See item [5](#))
- The Associated Press reports that for the second time in about two months, an Indiana Interstate 70 truck stop was evacuated because of a bomb threat and suspicious package. (See item [18](#))
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service reports a new software tool, ICWater, that can be used to protect drinking water sources from contamination is now available in all 50 states. (See item [27](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *October 12, My Web Times (IL)* — **Two arrested at nuclear plant.** Two people were arrested in separate incidents Friday, October 6, for possessing weapons at Exelon's La Salle Generating Station in northern Illinois. La Salle County sheriff's deputies were first called to the nuclear station at 2:26 p.m. CDT after Wackenhut Security personnel reported finding a loaded 9mm

pistol in a semi-truck entering the property. Brian A. Hull was arrested and charged with having a loaded weapon in a motor vehicle. Deputies were dispatched to the nuclear plant again at 4:28 p.m. in response to a report of an illegal knife on the premises. Stephen W. Taylor was arrested and charged with unlawful use of a weapon for possessing a switchblade knife. The sheriff's department said the two incidents appeared to be unrelated.

Source: <http://mywebtimes.com/ottnews/archives/ottawa/display.php?id=276520>

2. *October 11, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* — **NRC proposes \$60,000 fine against Indiana Michigan Power for emergency plan violation.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has proposed a \$60,000 fine against Indiana Michigan Power Co. for making a change in the emergency plan of the D.C. Cook Nuclear Power Station which led to a decrease in the plan's effectiveness. The plant, which has two reactors, is located in Bridgman, MI. An NRC inspection identified that Cook officials made a change to the plant's emergency plan without Commission approval in April 2003. The NRC concluded that this change decreased the effectiveness of the emergency plan. The licensee made a change to an emergency action level by adding a non-conservative 30-minute criteria which could result in a delayed emergency declaration for a radiological release to the environment. Emergency action levels are used in emergency plans to decide when a plant must declare an emergency and to classify the appropriate level of the emergency. The addition of a 30-minute delay before classifying an emergency could also delay or prevent notification of state and local officials. Nuclear power plants may make changes to emergency plans without Commission approval only if the changes do not decrease the effectiveness of the plans and that the plans continue to meet regulatory standards.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-030iii.html>

3. *October 11, Journal News* — **NRC pushes for better security.** Federal regulators are looking at a host of changes to emergency planning at the nation's nuclear plants that local and industry officials say will keep sites more secure and provide the public with better response plans. Many of the recommendations by staff at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) have already been put into place at Indian Point and many of the nation's 103 working nuclear plants, according to emergency officials, primarily as a response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The recommendations include the following: changing drills and exercises to meet overall performance standards rather than evaluating how closely an emergency plan was followed; combining radiological emergencies with terrorist-attack events, so that responders are prepared for both; and updating evacuation data as needed, rather than with each new U.S. census. In December 2004, the NRC began a comprehensive review of emergency planning at the reactor sites it oversees, soliciting industry comment and holding two-day public hearings to help refine its regulations. A similar set of changes on reactor oversight took years before it was codified in 2000.

Source: <http://www.thejournalnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061011/NEWS01/610110364/1019/NEWS03>

4. *October 11, Leader-Post (Canada)* — **Power workers charged.** Two SaskPower employees and another man appeared in custody in Regina Provincial Court on Tuesday, October 10, facing charges of mischief and firearms offences for vandalism involving power poles and power lines around Estevan in Saskatchewan, Canada, which is located 10 minutes directly north of the U.S. Border. The charges stem from three incidents of deliberate damage to the

SaskPower equipment between September 27 and October 1, the most serious of which damaged a 230,000-volt transmission line northeast of Estevan. All three incidents affected customers, though how many customers and how long they were without power is not being released by SaskPower. The first two incidents involved damage to the transformers and the third involved damage to guide wires on the power poles themselves.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/reginaleaderpost/news/story.html?id=018dd7d0-c8c9-494d-beee-0a09576eb880>

5. *October 10, Platts Energy Bulletin* — **NRC issues order to establish fingerprinting program.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued orders requiring fingerprinting and criminal history record checks for all NRC licensees and individuals seeking access to safeguards information, or SGI. Although it is working on an SGI rulemaking that includes fingerprinting and FBI background check requirements, NRC said it had to issue the order before completing the SGI rule because of a mandate in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The order (EA-06-203) was issued September 29 and was publicly released October 10.
- Source: <http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/7780027.xml?p=Nuclear/News&sub=Nuclear&src=energybulletin>

[[Return to top](#)]

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

6. *October 11, Associated Press* — **Businesses evacuated after fire at Minnesota chemical facility.** A fire at the Epoxical chemical facility in South St. Paul, MN, closed two entrance and exit ramps off of Interstate 494 Wednesday, October 11. Some businesses in the area were evacuated. South St. Paul schools have cancelled all outside activities, and several schools south of the fire, in Cottage Grove and St. Paul Park, were placed in lockdown for a brief period of time.
- Source: http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2006/10/11/sost_paul/

[[Return to top](#)]

Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *October 11, CongressDaily* — **Army pursues risky bid for boost in funding.** Top Army officers are clamoring for a larger share of the overall Defense budget in a move that could upset the delicate balance in annual spending allocations to the military services. They want to put their heavily deployed branch on par financially with the larger annual Air Force and Navy spending accounts for the first time since the creation of the Air Force almost 60 years ago. Army Chief of Staff Peter Schoomaker said Wednesday, October 11, the service needs \$138.8 billion in its base fiscal 2008 budget — \$25 billion more than Pentagon leaders outlined for the Army in budget guidance sent to the services and defense agencies earlier this year. Army accounts typically comprise 24 percent of the Defense budget, with the technology-heavy Air Force and Navy, which includes the Marine Corps, each receiving about 30 percent. For years, Army leaders have shied away from advocating sharp spending increases, fearing that they would spark a budget war among the services. But the hefty price tag on Army modernization

and transformation have swelled the Army's budget needs, Schoomaker said during a roundtable interview at the Pentagon.

Source: [http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35254&dcn=to daysnews](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35254&dcn=to%20daysnews)

[[Return to top](#)]

Banking and Finance Sector

8. *October 12, Associated Press* — **UTA alerts students to identity-theft threat.** The personal information of about 2,500 University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) students was on two computers stolen from a faculty member's home last month, school officials said. The computers stolen from a Fort Worth home included class rosters with students' Social Security numbers, grades, e-mail addresses, and other information, the school said. Students in computer science and engineering classes between fall 2000 and fall 2006 could be affected. Fort Worth police said the items stolen in the September 29 burglary included two computers and two flat monitors. Police say they have no leads in the case.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/metropolitan/4253257.html>

9. *October 12, Websense Security Labs* — **Multiple Phishing Alert: OCHA Credit Union, Alliance Bank, Notre Dame Federal Credit Union.** Websense Security Labs has received several reports of phishing attacks targeting banking customers. All phishing e-mails reported below provide a link to a phishing site that attempts to collect user account information. OCHA Credit Union: Users receive a spoofed e-mail message, which claims that the security questions and answers on their account were recently changed. Users are asked to log on to verify these changes.

Alliance Bank: Users receive a spoofed email message which claims that, unless the services listed on the e-mail are renewed immediately, they will be deactivated. Users are asked to log on in order to verify their information.

Notre Dame Federal Credit Union: Users receive a spoofed e-mail message which claims that their online services have been limited due to unauthorized access. Users are asked to verify their account information and to visit the resolution center in order to remove limitations.

Screenshots:

<http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=661>

<http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=660>

<http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=659>

Source: <http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/>

10. *October 11, USA TODAY* — **Cybercrime flourishes with online hackers.** Cybercrime forums gird a criminal economy that robs U.S. businesses of \$67.2 billion a year, according to an FBI projection. Over the past two years, U.S. consumers lost more than \$8 billion to viruses, spyware and online fraud schemes, Consumer Reports says. In 2004, a crackdown by the FBI and U.S. Secret Service briefly disrupted growth of the forums. But they soon regrouped, more robust than ever. Today, they are maturing — and consolidating — just like any other fast-rising business sector, security experts and law enforcement officials say. Security firms CardCops and RSA Security, EMC, and volunteer watchdog group Shadowserver observed the forced mergers, as well, and compiled dozens of takeover-related screen shots. Forum leaders have become increasingly selective about accepting new members. "Vouching" for new

members is now the norm, requiring a member in good standing to extend an invitation to new recruits. Veteran vendors and buyers typically do business in multiple forums simultaneously, in case any particular forum shuts down. Some forums have become known for their specialties, such as offering free research tools to do things such as confirming the validity of a stolen credit card number or learning about security weaknesses at specific banks.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/usatoday/20061012/tc_usatoday/cybercrimeflourishesinonlinehackerforums;_ylt=AjXO89GuCYldzVhBWj97Z8IjtBAF;_ylu=X3oDMTA0cDJIYmhvBHNIYwM

11. *October 09, Internetnews* — **Government indicts two for Internet scam.** Two Romanian nationals are facing wire fraud and identity fraud charges for their roles in a \$150,000 Internet auction scheme. According to a 10-count indictment, Teodor Manolache and Leontin Salageanu were involved in organizing bogus auctions for Hurricane Katrina victims. The two offered items for sale and collected the winning bids, but failed to deliver the products. According to the Department of Justice, the sellers instructed victims to send their payments by Western Union to circumvent online payment systems. Manolache and Salageanu then went to Western Union locations in the Los Angeles area and, using false identification, collected the money. The bogus auctions were held on eBay, Yahoo and Autotrader.com. The indictment charges Manolache and Salageanu with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and identity fraud. Between October 2005 and February 2006, the Internet Crime Complaint Center referred 56 incidents of Internet fraud to the FBI where victim buyers were deceived and defrauded by sellers purporting to be collecting money for Hurricane Katrina victim relief.

Source: <http://www.internetnews.com/bus-news/article.php/3636786>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation and Border Security Sector

12. *October 12, Newsday (NY)* — **Group defends private flying as safe.** An organization representing private pilots was quick to defend people who fly small planes for recreation or business in the wake of the accident Wednesday, October 11, that killed Yankee pitcher Cory Lidle and his flight instructor, saying such flying is safe and the number of crashes and fatalities has declined sharply over the last two decades. Chris Dancy, a spokesperson for the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association in Maryland, said that the number of accidents and deaths resulting from crashes of light airplanes has been declining since 1980. Private, mostly single-engine planes are considered general aviation aircraft. In 1980, general aviation airplanes were involved in 3,590 crashes that killed 654 people. In contrast, last year, such airplanes were involved in 1,764 accidents, killing 334. Immediately following the crash, critics of general aviation began to call for stronger restrictions particularly over crowded metropolitan areas. The critics also called for greater security at smaller airports, and more training for people who want to become private pilots. Charles Slepian, chief executive officer of the Foreseeable Risk Analysis Center in Manhattan, meanwhile, was critical of regulations that allow private planes to fly over cities.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/business/ny-bzfly1012.0.7893919.story?coll=ny-business-leadheadlines>

13.

October 12, Register (UK) — **Airport to tag passengers.** Airport security chiefs and efficiency geeks will be able to keep close tabs on airport passengers by tagging them with a high-powered radio chip developed at the University of Central London. The technology is to be trialed in Debrecen Airport in Hungary after being in development for two-and-a-half years by University College London as part of an European Union-funded consortium called Optag. People will be told to wear radio tags round their necks when they get to the airport. The tag would notify a computer system of their identity and whereabouts. The system would then track their activities in the airport using a network of high definition cameras.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2006/10/12/airport_rfid/

14. *October 12, Today's Trucking (Canada)* — **Pacific port plan for Canada.** The \$591 million Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative announced by Prime Minister Stephen Harper will help turn Canada's West Coast into one of the premier trade gateways in the Pacific, says the President of the Vancouver Port Authority (VPA). Gordon Houston says the government's immediate allocation of \$321 million will address urgent road and rail capacity and congestion issues to improve goods movement in the gateway." The cash is welcome news not just to the VPA, but also to big box shippers and trucking companies frustrated in recent years with Lower Mainland port's inability to keep capacity level close to skyrocketing trade to and from Asia. The Port of Vancouver is Canada's largest port, trading \$43 billion in goods.

Source: <http://www.todaystrucking.com/news.cfm?intDocID=16816>

15. *October 12, Worcester Telegram & Gazette News (MA)* — **Students told to stay off the tracks.** One day after two teenage boys were charged with throwing rocks off a downtown railroad bridge, officials from CSX Corp. met with students at Dr. Arthur F. Sullivan Middle School in Worcester, MA, to talk about railroad safety. CSX public affairs and safety supervisor Lou Frangella and CSX peer trainer and conductor Brian Lawlor are meeting with all of the district's middle school students through the national Operation Lifesaver program. At their first presentation on Wednesday, October 11, about half of the students said they had walked on railroad tracks at least once. Worcester has both passenger and freight traffic, and the freight trains running through the city can have 75 to 80 cars and can be two miles long. Frangella cautioned students not to walk on train trestles or in train tunnels. The train is three feet wider than the track on either side, leaving little room for anything else in the tunnel. Even outside the tunnel, people should give trains a wide berth in case anything is hanging off the train cars.

Source: <http://www.telegram.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061012/NEWS/610120747/1008/NEWS02>

16. *October 12, Bay City News Service (CA)* — **Downtown Berkeley BART station reopens after power restored.** Power has been restored to the Downtown Berkeley Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) station said agency spokesperson Linton Johnson. Power was restored at 8:28 a.m. PDT after the 7:06 a.m. outage and all trains are running on time, Johnson said. A Pacific Gas and Electric crew worked to restore power to the 900 customers in the area who lost power along with the BART station after a switch failed to operate due to an underground cable failure, according to spokesperson Paul Moreno.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/breaking_news/15732153.htm

17.

October 12, Reuters — **Plane crash sparks security concerns in New York.** Several politicians on Thursday, October 12, called for an overhaul of the safety rules regarding private aircraft flying near Manhattan after a single-engine plane owned by Cory Lidle, a pitcher for the New York Yankees, crashed into a residential building on Wednesday in an apparent accident. Lidle, 34, and his flight instructor were killed. Under current rules, small aircraft can fly without filing a flight plan along two low-altitude corridors over the East River and Hudson River at lower than 1,100 feet without air traffic control contact. The Federal Aviation Administration, which regulates aviation safety, said in a statement it would review with federal and local authorities its flight rules for New York City. Separately, the National Transportation Safety Board, which is investigating the crash, said preliminary evidence showed the SR20's engine was operating when it hit the building. Some lawmakers called for the type of restriction in place in Washington, which is permanently protected by a no-fly zone that keeps planes like the one flown by Lidle outside the capital unless they have air traffic clearance.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=topNews&storyid=2006-10-12T234035Z_01_N12365014_RTRUKOC_0_US-SECURITY-NEWYORK.xml&src=rss&rpc=22

18. *October 09, Associated Press* — **Second suspicious package and bomb threat in two months forces evacuation Indiana truck stop.** For the second time in about two months, an Interstate 70 truck stop was evacuated because of a bomb threat and suspicious package. The package was found near a fuel pump and was blown up by a bomb squad Sunday, October 8. No damage or injuries were reported, but about 1,000 people were evacuated from the Flying J truck stop and nearby New Castle Motor Sports Park, and the interstate was temporarily shut down. Henry County Sheriff Kim Cronk said someone had called 911 from a pay phone saying he had planted a bomb at the truck stop, about 40 miles east of Indianapolis. Another suspicious package was found at the same truck stop on August 7 and also was detonated.

Source: <http://www.newspress.com/Top/Article/article.jsp?Section=NATIONAL&ID=564819918026310651>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

19. *October 12, Courier-Journal (KY)* — **UPS plans to hire 1,200 seasonal workers.** Gearing up for the Thanksgiving-to-Christmas peak delivery period, United Parcel Service (UPS) will hire 1,200 season workers over the next few weeks — 218 more than at this time last year, the package-delivery company said Thursday, October 12. The increase in seasonal hiring stems from the new 700,000-square-foot heavy-freight Worldport hub that opened this year at Louisville International Airport, UPS spokesperson Jackie Blair said. About 1,000 people will be needed to work in the Worldport air-package sorting hub, outside on the ramps or in the freight operation. UPS also will hire 30 over-the-road truck drivers and 170 driver helpers to assist on local package routes. Normally, Worldport processes about one million packages a day. On the heaviest day of the peak period, expected on December 22, UPS forecasts Worldport will handle twice that number.

Source: <http://www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061012/BUSINESS/61012037/1003>

Agriculture Sector

20. *October 12, Iowa Ag Connection* — **Iowa university unveils chemical lock.** A new chemical tool to combat the illegal production of methamphetamine nationwide was unveiled Wednesday, October 11. The announcement was made in front of an Anhydrous Ammonia fertilizer nurse tank. "Iowa continues to be a leader in pioneering meth-fighting strategies that benefit the nation," said Iowa Governor Vilsack in announcing Iowa State University researchers have found that Calcium Nitrate works as an effective meth inhibitor when added in prescribed amounts to Anhydrous Ammonia. The Iowa State research, confirmed by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's forensics lab, found that meth cooks who use untreated Anhydrous Ammonia typically get a 42 percent yield of pseudoephedrine for conversion to meth. However, that yield drops to two percent or less when the Calcium Nitrate inhibitor is added. Putting calcium nitrate into the anhydrous ammonia nurse tanks renders them useless in making meth.

Source: <http://www.iowaagconnection.com/story-state.php?Id=944&yr=2006>

21. *October 11, CIDRAP News* — **Chronic wasting disease may spread via saliva.** Deer may spread chronic wasting disease (CWD) through their saliva. Researchers in Colorado tested four sets of six-month-old hand-raised deer, exposing them to saliva, feces and urine, blood, or brain from wild or captive deer with CWD. A fifth set were inoculated with each of those materials from wild deer without CWD. The deer were observed for 18 months and their tonsil tissue was regularly tested for signs of infection. After 18 months the deer were euthanized, and their brains were autopsied. All the deer exposed to saliva and to blood from CWD-infected deer were infected, while those exposed to urine and feces remained healthy. The researchers state that infectious CWD in saliva may explain why the disease spreads so easily. Interactions between different animals, "especially in high density and captive situations, would be expected to facilitate salivary cross-contact."

CWD information: <http://www.cwd-info.org/>

Source: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/other/bse/news/oct1106cwg.html>

22. *October 11, Stop Soybean Rust News* — **Soybean rust hits seven Kentucky counties.** Asian soybean rust was detected on soybeans for the first time ever in Kentucky on Friday, October 6. Rust was subsequently found on soybeans in seven counties in the western part of the state. The infected counties are Caldwell, Christian, Hopkins, Lyon, Marshall, Todd, and Union. Last year, only Caldwell County had any rust, and that was on kudzu, discovered November 11, 2005. The U.S. count is now 110 infected counties in nine states. These new finds are much farther north than any other U.S. rust locations in 2006.

Source: <http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=978>

Food Sector

23. *October 12, Agricultural Research Service* — New methods for detecting *Listeria*.

Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists in Wyndmoor, PA, are improving methods to detect foodborne pathogens like the *Listeria monocytogenes*. Listeriosis, the illness caused by *L. monocytogenes* infection, affects around 2,500 people in the U.S. every year, and kills about 500. Most methods for detecting harmful foodborne bacteria rely on antibodies, which are proteins used by the immune system to fight infections and foreign bodies. Because these antibodies target very specific infections, researchers can use them to identify and locate specific pathogens. Antibodies vary in their degree of specificity. Current antibody-based methods for detecting *L. monocytogenes* can't distinguish this bacterium from the mixture of harmless bacteria found in most foods, according to Shu-I Tu, research leader of the Microbial Biophysics and Residue Chemistry Research Unit at the ARS Eastern Regional Research Center in Wyndmoor. A molecular method called "phage display" uses bacteria and bacterial viruses, or phages, to quickly select antibodies to detect pathogens. Now ARS microbiologist George Paoli and chemist Jeffrey Brewster have employed phage display to isolate an antibody fragment that binds specifically to *L. monocytogenes*. The researchers' success demonstrates that antibody phage display can be used to select antibodies for pathogen detection, even where traditional methods have proved inadequate.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261>

24. *October 11, Health IT* — Online system helps limit food contamination outbreaks. During the recent *E. coli* spinach contamination outbreak, officials at the Wisconsin state public health lab posted *E. coli* patterns on a PulseNet list serve that helps track this pathogen. Not long after, health department analysts in Oregon were alerted to this information, and linked an *E. coli* case in their state to a possible bag of spinach. This is a concrete example of how the online public health network — PulseNet — is helping officials track disease outbreaks. PulseNet is a national network of public health and food regulatory agency laboratories coordinated by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The network consists of: state health departments, local health departments, and federal agencies. PulseNet participants perform standardized molecular subtyping (or "fingerprinting") of foodborne disease-causing bacteria by pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE). PFGE can be used to distinguish strains of organisms such as *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, *Salmonella*, *Shigella*, *Listeria*, or *Campylobacter* at the DNA level. DNA "fingerprints," or patterns, are submitted electronically to a dynamic database at the CDC. These databases are available on-demand to participants — this allows for rapid comparison of the patterns.

Source: <http://www.health-itworld.com/newsitems/2006/oct/10-11-06-dh-cp-food-contamination-outbreaks>

[[Return to top](#)]

Water Sector

25. *October 11, Reuters* — Massive investment needed if Damascus to avert water crisis.

Billions of dollars of investment are required over the next decade if Damascus, Syria's rapidly growing capital, is to avert a critical water crisis, according to a leading development agency. The Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the development agency of the Japanese Government, has taken a lead role in tackling Syria's growing water shortages. Kazuhide Nagasawa, resident representative of JICA in Syria, said that over the past 20 years

the level of ground water in the Barada basin, on which Damascus sits, retreated from 50 meters to 200 meters underground, leading to supply shortages as well as a struggle to tap water in dry summer months. "In another 20 years, the water table could be down to 400 meters [below ground level] while the population of Damascus could have risen from its current figure of four to five million, to 10 million. At that point it will be difficult to survive on the limited water resources. The Syrian government will have to decide whether they want to transfer water to Damascus from the coast, or from the Euphrates [river]."

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/d99a73b9affcf120e011466aae4512a6.htm>

26. *October 11, Press & Dakotan (SD)* — **Unacceptable levels of banned chemical detected in Yankton water supply.** Yankton, SD, officials said Monday, October 9, that unacceptable levels of a chemical banned for over-the-counter use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were detected in the municipal water supply earlier this year. However, City Manager Jeff Weldon said the chemical posed no public health risk. Tests on the city's water supply done in May found pentachlorophenol, a synthetic chemical used industrially as a wood preservative for utility poles, railroad ties and wharf pilings. The chemical was utilized widely as both a wood preservative and herbicide until the mid-1980s, when its use was restricted to certified applicators. Pentachlorophenol was found at a level of seven parts per billion parts of water in the city's supply, according to Weldon — well above the EPA's limit of one part of pentachlorophenol per billion parts of water. Subsequent tests have shown no trace of the chemical, and Yankton Public Works Director Kevin Kuhl, said he doesn't expect it to be found again.

Source: http://www.yankton.net/stories/101106/community_530101106.sh tmlc

27. *October 10, U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service* — **Software tool helps protect nation's drinking water.** A new software tool that can be used to protect drinking water sources from contamination is now available in all 50 states. ICWater has already been used by water utilities and state hazardous materials response teams in Oregon and Washington, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Douglas Ryan, a scientist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station, led an interagency effort to develop ICWater. In the U.S., hundreds of thousands of bodies of surface water — like lakes, rivers, and reservoirs — help supply the public with drinking water. If a chemical, radioactive or biological contaminant were accidentally or intentionally introduced into a drinking water source, knowing what threat it posed to the public would be essential for incident commanders. ICWater is a computer-based tool that integrates multiple information sources and data for incident commanders at the scene of a surface water contamination. It quickly produces maps, tables, and charts that show if drinking water intakes are in the contaminant's path, and when and in what concentration the contaminant will reach the intakes.

ICWater information: <http://eh2o.saic.com/icwater/>

Source: <http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/news/2006/10/software.shtml>

[[Return to top](#)]

Public Health Sector

28. *October 12, New England Journal of Medicine* — **Drug-susceptibility assay for the diagnosis of tuberculosis.** Rapid, sensitive detection of tuberculosis (TB) and multidrug-resistant TB in sputum has been demonstrated in proof-of-principle studies of the microscopic-observation drug-susceptibility (MODS) assay. Researchers investigated the performance of the MODS assay for culture and drug-susceptibility testing in three target groups: unselected patients with suspected TB, prescreened patients at high risk for TB or multidrug-resistant TB, and unselected patients infected with HIV. Researchers compared the MODS assay with two reference methods: automated mycobacterial culture and culture on Löwenstein-Jensen medium with the proportion method. Of 3,760 sputum samples, 401 yielded cultures positive for *Mycobacterium* TB. Sensitivity of detection was 97.8 percent for MODS culture, 89 percent for automated mycobacterial culture, and 84 percent for Löwenstein-Jensen culture; the median time to culture positivity was seven days, 13 days, and 26 days, respectively, and the median time to the results of susceptibility tests was seven days, 22 days, and 68 days, respectively. Agreement between MODS and the reference standard for susceptibility was 100 percent for rifampin, 97 percent for isoniazid, 99 percent for rifampin and isoniazid, 95 percent for ethambutol, and 92 percent for streptomycin. A single MODS culture of a sputum sample offered more rapid and sensitive detection of TB and multidrug-resistant TB than the existing methods used.
Source: <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/355/15/1539>
29. *October 11, Agence France-Presse* — **Beijing steps up bird flu monitoring.** Beijing has stepped up its monitoring of bird flu after two recent outbreaks in the north of the country. The 86 bird monitoring stations in the Chinese capital will provide daily reports, with more than 100,000 migratory birds from Russia, Mongolia and northeast China expected to fly over the city in October alone. The capital's municipal parks bureau said it had so far monitored more than 122,000 migratory birds but had not found any outbreak of bird flu. The city has urged residents to report sightings of ill or dead birds. It has already banned imports of live poultry and related products from regions recently hit by bird flu.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20061011/hl_afp/healthchinaflu_061011121901
30. *October 11, Associated Press* — **U.S. pandemic flu plan: stay home.** Could you work from home for weeks at a time? How long could you hole up without needing to go to the grocery or drugstore? Would you be willing to wear a face mask and isolate yourself from others? Harvard researchers are surveying Americans on questions like these as the government wraps up work on a plan to use infection-control measures to deal with a pandemic flu until drugs and vaccine become available. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) aims to send out a plan for review by the end of the year. The CDC awarded \$5.2 million in grants related to the plan. The CDC also asked the Institute of Medicine, a group of scientific advisers, to meet on these measures later this month. The nationwide survey by the Harvard School of Public Health is an attempt to get a handle on how Americans would follow such advice. The CDC plan will list multiple scenarios for pandemics and recommend corresponding control measures. These will include voluntary isolation of sick people, voluntary quarantine for those exposed to the germ, and protective sequestration to separate healthy people or communities from a source of infection.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/10/11/AR2006101101092.html>

31. *October 09, Archives of Internal Medicine* — **Risk of acquiring antibiotic-resistant bacteria from prior hospital room occupants.** Environmental contamination with methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) occurs during the care of patients harboring these organisms and may increase the risk of transmission to subsequent room occupants. Researchers performed a twenty-month retrospective cohort study of patients admitted to eight intensive care units performing routine admission and weekly screening for MRSA and VRE. The relative odds of acquisition among patients admitted to rooms in which the most recent occupants were MRSA positive or VRE positive, compared with patients admitted to other rooms were assessed. Of 11,528 intensive care unit room stays, 10,151 occupants were eligible to acquire MRSA, and 10,349 were eligible to acquire VRE. Among patients whose prior room occupant was MRSA positive, 3.9 percent acquired MRSA, compared with 2.9 percent of patients whose prior room occupant was MRSA negative. Among patients whose prior room occupant was VRE positive, these values were 4.5 percent and 2.8 percent respectively. These excess risks accounted for 5.1 percent of all incident MRSA cases and 6.8 percent of all incident VRE cases. Acquisition was significantly associated with longer post-intensive care unit length of stay.
Source: <http://archinte.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/short/166/18/1945>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

32. *October 12, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **Federal Emergency Management Agency National Situation Update.** Tropical Weather Outlook: Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico/Caribbean Sea: A tropical wave near the Lesser Antilles is producing disorganized areas of showers and thunderstorms. The wave is expected to move west-northwestward across the Windward and Leeward Islands into the eastern Caribbean Sea during the next two days. No significant development is expected. Central and Eastern Pacific: Tropical Depression Olivia is located about 1,000 miles west-southwest of southern tip of Baja, CA, moving east. Olivia is forecast to dissipate in the next two days. Tropical Depression Norman is centered about 650 miles southwest of the southern tip of Baja, CA, moving east-northeast. System should dissipate in the next two days. Western Pacific: Tropical Storm 21W (Soulik) located approximately 560 miles north-northwest of Guam has been tracking west-northwestward at 10 mph. This system poses no threat to US territories or interests.
To view other Situation Updates: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/index.shtm>
Source: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/2006/nat101206.shtm>

33. *October 12, Macomb Daily (MI)* — **Agencies test responsiveness and cooperation efforts during simulated plane crash.** Despite a few minor glitches, officials said a coordinated training exercise between several local and federal agencies handling a simulated F-16 crash in Lake St. Clair, MI, went well Wednesday, October 11. The interagency Major Accident

Response Exercise tested responsiveness and cooperation efforts among Selfridge Air National Guard Base, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Harrison Township Fire Department and several other agencies. Events began with a military radio transmission of pilots having trouble with an F-16 aircraft causing it to "crash." Rescue efforts had to be coordinated between the Coast Guard, Harrison Township, the Macomb County Sheriff's Marine Patrol Division, St. Clair Shores Fire Department, MedStar ambulance and several others. Wednesday marked the first time Selfridge officials conducted an off-base disaster training exercise with local law enforcement officials since 2002. A few glitches in the drill included some radio communication trouble between the ground and the Coast Guard helicopter during rescue efforts, but officials said most of the exercise went as planned.

Source: http://www.macombdaily.com/stories/101206/loc_crashsim001.sh tml

34. *October 12, Olympian (WA)* — Vandalism compromises rescue unit's response time.

Residents living southwest of Shelton, WA, might have to wait longer for emergency response after a bizarre act of vandalism forced out of service a quarter of the equipment used by Mason County Fire Protection District 13, Fire Chief Stan Loertscher said. On Monday, October 9, someone fired bullets into one of the district's three fire substations, damaging the fire engine and rescue unit stored inside. The station is six miles southwest of Shelton. The eight volunteers who live in the area will have to drive four miles farther to get the vehicles they need to respond to a fire or medical emergency, Loertscher said Wednesday, October 11. The engine could be back in service within a week, but the rescue unit could be totalled. If so, it could take months for the district to acquire a replacement.

Source: http://159.54.227.3/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061012/NEWS_01/610120371

35. *October 11, Homeland Response (OH)* — California governor signs bill to improve emergency planning for people with disabilities. Calling September 11 and Hurricane Katrina "wake-up calls," California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has signed into law a bill that requires the state's Office of Emergency Services to make sure that members of the disabled community are represented on all pertinent emergency preparedness committees, among other measures. The bill also requires the state's director of emergency services to provide the state legislature with recommendations regarding emergency preparedness, planning and procedures for disabled people no later than January 1, 2009. The bill's other measures include a requirement that the state director of emergency services and the state fire marshal's office "seek research funds to assist in the development of new technologies and information systems that will assist in the evacuation of disabled persons."

Source: <http://www.homelandresponse.org/500/News/Article/False/38354/News>

[[Return to top](#)]

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

36. *October 11, CNET News* — Oracle to open up on bug severity. Oracle plans to add severity ratings to its security bulletins, making the alerts less of a guessing game for customers. Starting with its Critical Patch Update scheduled for next week, Oracle will rate the severity of the flaws that it provides fixes for, said Darius Wiles, senior manager for security alerts at Oracle, late Tuesday, October 10. In addition, the business software giant's security bulletins will explicitly indicate which bugs could be exploited over the Internet by anonymous attackers

and will provide a summary of the security problems for each of its product categories, Wiles said. The changes to Oracle's Critical Patch Update should make the company's quarterly scheduled security update less of a riddle.

Source: http://news.com.com/Oracle+to+open+up+on+bug+severity/2100-1002_3-6124739.html

37. *October 11, Tech Web* — **Microsoft fixes flaw in Vista.** Along with patches for Windows 2000, XP, and Server 2003 Microsoft released at least one update for Windows Vista on Tuesday, October 10. One of the 10 security updates — MS06-061 — applies to Windows Vista RC1, the last widely-distributed preview of the operating system. Unlike that bulletin's patches for Windows 2000, Windows XP, and Windows Server 2003, which were pegged as "critical" in Microsoft's four-step ranking, the Vista fix was labeled "important," one level below the top.

Source: <http://www.techweb.com/wire/software/193200725>

38. *October 11, CRN* — **Microsoft offers reference specifications for building applications around Office 2007.** With Office 2007 nearing completion, Microsoft is seeding the fields with new tools to encourage ISVs to develop around the Office platform. Microsoft on Wednesday, October 11, released a reference specification for building supply-chain management around the Office 2007 stack, the first in a planned series of Office Reference Application Packs. The packs are part of a strategy that Microsoft calls Office Business Applications (OBA), which urges third-party developers to make back-end enterprise applications like financial and CRM systems available to users through the interface of Office applications.

OBA reference application pack: <http://msdn.microsoft.com/architecture/office/oba/rap/scm/default.aspx>

Source: <http://www.crn.com/sections/microsoft/microsoft.jhtml?articleId=193200673>

39. *October 11, Government Computer News* — **Security challenges persist at IRS despite progress.** The IRS has not installed patches on all its computers in the face of security flaws, leaving sensitive taxpayer information at risk to unauthorized disclosure. The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) released several recent reports citing the need for the tax agency to strengthen patch management and other aspects of IRS security. Although IRS has made process changes, they have not yet had a positive effect on certification and accreditation and tracking the resolution of security vulnerabilities. Risks to sensitive data on IRS systems are increasing due to more connectivity of computer systems and use of laptops and overall higher hacker activity, TIGTA said. Even with improvements in patch management practices, for example, inadequate management of controls still allow for unpatched systems, said TIGTA. The IRS plans to complete by February nationwide rollout of a self-install program that identifies and installs patches on workstations and laptops. The agency also has taken steps to better manage its Tivoli security software endpoints and is considering an approach that would not allow workstations onto the network until missing patches were updated.

Source: http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/42279-1.html

40. *October 10, Information Week* — **Teleworkers know and ignore security risks, study says.** The majority of telecommuters are aware of the security dangers that go along with using mobile devices and remotely logging onto their employers' networks, yet their behavior for the

most part contradicts this awareness, according to a study issued Monday, October 9, by Cisco Systems and research firm InsightExpress. Of 1,000 teleworkers contacted across 10 countries, more than one of every five allows friends, family members, or other non-employees to use his/her work computer to access the Internet. About one-third of the teleworkers admitted using work computers for personal computing, while nearly half of the respondents indicate that they download personal files onto their work devices. One of every four remote workers surveyed indicated he or she opens unknown e-mails when using work devices. Despite this behavior, don't expect companies to corral their remote workers anytime soon. Telecommuting and remote access are "an unstoppable force, so we have to build security for it," says Bob Gleichauf, CTO of Cisco's security business unit. This means security has to be taken out of the hands of end users as much as possible. Security in the future has to be "security out of the box, building security into processes and technologies," he added.

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/security/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=193105716>

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks	
Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 4672 (eMule), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 80 (www), 113 (auth), 65530 (WindowsMite), 445 (microsoft-ds), 139 (netbios-ssn), 25 (smtp), 16647 (----)
Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center	
To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov .	
Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: https://www.it-isac.org/ .	

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

- 41. *October 12, Enterprise (MA)* — Rotarians raise money for cameras to monitor Brockton streets.** The Rotary Club plans to raise at least \$25,000 to buy and install several surveillance cameras throughout the community as part of a civic project designed to make Brockton, MA, a safer city, said Phil White, secretary of the club. Brockton police would decide where the cameras would be installed and would be responsible for monitoring the video. The group's plan comes as Brockton officials continue to press federal officials for a \$1.7 million grant to install surveillance cameras and upgrade the police computer system. The city is also applying for other grants for cameras. If the Brockton effort is successful, the city will join a growing group of local communities with surveillance cameras.

Source: <http://enterprise.southofboston.com/articles/2006/10/12/news/news/news07.txt>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

General Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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